

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MIKE TAYLOR**, on January 18, 2001 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mike Taylor, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mike Sprague, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Dale Berry (R)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Bart Campbell, Legislative Branch
Kyanne Kelly, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB30, 1/15/2001; SB156,
1/15/2001
Executive Action: SB30; SB156; SB86

HEARING ON SB 30

Sponsor: SENATOR DALE MAHLUM, SD35, MISSOULA

Proponents: Steve Meloy, Professional & Occupational Licencing
Arnie Olson, Montana Historical Society
Jeff Tiberi, Montana Heritage Commission

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1}

SENATOR DALE MAHLUM, SD 35, MISSOULA, stated this bill would help one of the purchases that all the citizens of Montana have made. It has to do with #12, a new steam Engine in Virginia City. The people who run this have to be certified.

Proponents' Testimony:

Steve Meloy, Professional & Occupational Licencing Division, said this bill attempts to set up a home for the licencing of the steam engines. The department supports this bill.

EXHIBIT (bus14a01)

Arnie Olson, Montana Historical Society, supports this bill. Operating this locomotive requires a skilled operator, qualified to understand and maintain safe railroad operations to issue passenger safety. Standards for licencing will ensure that the steam locomotive operators are qualified to handle the task of transporting guests safely, as well as guaranteeing the maintenance and upkeep of one of Montana's treasures.

EXHIBIT (bus14a02)

Jeff Tiberi, Montana Heritage Commission, said they support this bill. This bill would allow the Department of Commerce to set standards. **EXHIBIT** (bus14a03)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5.4}

SENATOR EDWARD BUTCHER asked if this bill affects the hobbyist engineers. **Chris Hahn**, from Boiler Operators Program said it would not affect those who are doing antique farm machinery.

SENATOR MIKE SPRAGUE asked about page 2, line 5, changing "more than 6 tons", to "6 tons or more". **Chris Hahn** stated that it is a point to clarify that 6 tons is the starting point.

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR MAHLUM said this is the nicest steam engine in America today. This will help the volunteers who are going to run the steam engine.

HEARING ON SB156

Sponsor: **SENATOR VICKI COCCHIARELLA, SD32, MISSOULA**

Proponents: **George Wood, Montana Self Insurers Association**

Opponents: **None**

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 13.1}

SENATOR VICKI COCCHIARELLA, SD 32 MISSOULA, stated there are more than 60 self-insured businesses in Montana. Plan 1 insurers came together to protect themselves and others by formation of the 'guaranteed fund'. If one of them were to fail, the rest of them would make contributions to the fund and take responsibility of that member.

Proponents' Testimony:

George Wood, Montana Self Insurers Association, stated that in 1989 the legislature passed a bill creating the Montana Self-Insurers Guarantee Fund. In the event a self-insurer goes bankrupt, an injured workman will not be left without the benefits of the act. The Guarantee Fund has to pay the same benefits the employer had to pay when they were self-insured. This bill does just one thing: It changes the basis of the assessment of the fund from compensation alone to benefits paid.

Opponents' Testimony: **None**

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR MAHLUM asked if this was something the association needed to clean up some of the problems in the organization.

George Wood said yes, it allows them to come up with one set of standards.

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR COCCHIARELLA stated the Department of Labor also assesses the self-insured organization. There would be one set of books for the association, and one for the department.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 30

Motion/Vote: SEN. SPRAGUE moved that SB30 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 156

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved to AMEND SB 156. Motion carried unanimously. **EXHIBIT**(bus14a04) (SB015601.abc)

Motion/Vote: SEN. SPRAGUE moved that SB156 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 86

Motion/Vote: SEN. ROUSH moved that SB86 BE TABLED. Motion carried 7-1 with Butcher voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:10 A.M.

SEN. MIKE TAYLOR, Chairman

KYANNE KELLY, Secretary

MT/KK

EXHIBIT (bus14aad)